

252895

H Richard Strawser

Feb 20, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you, Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from \$8.29 to over \$28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

Reasonable increases in rates to adjust for inflationary pressures over time are acceptable but NOWHERE is a 300% increase considered reasonable or acceptable. This is a blatant ripoff of ALL and would constitute a dereliction of duty by the commissioners if this allowed to pass.

PLease consider the impact on the consumer and thoroughly evaluate the claimed need for the increase.

Thank you

Sincerely,
H Richard Strawser

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